

Courage for *Change*



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I was first homeless with my family at 12. Within a few years I ran away to escape a life filled with abuse. I was homeless for 1/3 of high school, yet still graduated together with my class and with honors. Through a caring teacher, I became fascinated by *Greek myths*. I also learned that most people did not have my best interests in mind. *Survival meant trusting and relying solely on myself.*

Though I wanted to go to college, I was ineligible for financial aid because I had no parental support. “I was too poor”. Determined to go to school, I found ways to take classes until I was finally able to receive aid and go to college full time.

After my experiences trying to navigate the education system as a homeless teen and a young adult living in poverty, I decided that I would devote myself to helping other homeless and underserved youth overcome similar obstacles. I discovered that I was able to reach this unreachable group using *Greek Mythology*. *I graduated Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from San Francisco State University with a BA in Psychology and a minor in Classics.*

Soon after, I found myself a single parent of a friend’s three teenagers, whose mother could no longer care for them due to terminal illness. I postponed graduate school. With the kids grown, *I am now pursuing a Ph.D. in Socio-Cultural Studies at the UCB School of Education. I am exploring how disadvantaged and marginalized youth can receive a relevant education.*

